(b) The draft NEP is a response to our national commitment to a clean environment, mandated in the Constitution. It recognizes that maintaining a healthy environment is not the State's responsibility alone, but also that of every citizen. The NEP is also intended to help realize sustainable development by mainstreaming environmental concerns in all development activities. It briefly describes key environmental challanges currently and prospectively facing the country, the objectives of environment policy, normative principles underlying policy action, strategic themes for intervention, broad indication of the legislative and institutional development needed to accomplish the strategic themes, and mechanisms for implementation and review.

(c) On its finalization, the NEP will be translated into a set of implementable Action Plan(s) with the participation of different stakeholders.

Agri-Business Package

2644. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to formulate guidelines for a new integrated agri-business package which will include both ready-to-eat and ready-to-cook food items;

(b) whether such a plan was announced when the Minister was speaking on a round table discussion on the Food Safety and Standards Bill organized by CII in the capital in September, 2005;

(c) whether the Cabinet has also considered agri-business package and vision document and the National Food Processing Policy; and

(d) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has initiated action for formulating an Integrated Strategy for promotion Agri-business including Vision and Action Plan for the food processing sector in consultation with

Ministries concerned and other stakeholders. As such, it is difficult to indicate the time frame by which the action plan will be finalized.

Differences between Government and MCI

2645. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the major points of differences between Government and the Medical Council of India as widely reported in the press;

(b) to what extent Government have made efforts to whittle down the differences and organize a working relationship with the Medical Council of India; and

(c) the steps proposed to evolve a clear policy on medical education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Of late, the Medical Council of India, which is a statutory body functioning under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in the Government, has been construing any policy direction issued by the Government in public interest, as infringement of its autonomy. In order to ensure a balance between autonomy and accountability, the Government has introduced the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the Parliament, when enacted will empower the Government to issue directions to the Council on policy issues and also to take appropriate steps in case such directions are not implemented. Modification of the existing policy on medical education is an on going process.

Hepatitis-B and other communicable diseases

2646. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be please to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Hepatitis-B virus (HBV) poses a far greater threat than the Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS);

(b) if so, whether there are some more fatal diseases like Japanese encephalitis, dengue, typhoid, polio, dysentery, filariases, kala-azar, etc.; and